

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 (original), 27, 29-31, 34, 36-39, 48-56 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

As requested by the Examiner, the Applicants have rewritten the claims in the format directed by 37 C.F.R. 1.173(b)(e).

Filed herewith is a terminal disclaimer that disclaims the terminal portion of any patent that may issue from the present application that would extend past the enforceability of any patent that issues from U.S. Patent Application No. 09/231,854. Therefore, the Applicants submit that the provisional double patenting rejection has been rendered moot and requests that the Examiner withdraw the same.

Further, the Applicants file herewith a Supplemental Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.175(b)(1). Therefore, the Applicants submit that the rejection of the claims based on the absence of a supplemental declaration has been rendered moot and requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection therefore.

Also submitted herewith is an information disclosure statement citing any prior art that was not previously cited in the present application but was cited in the related U.S. Patent Application No. 09/231,854.

The Applicants submit that each of the reasons for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot by the present response and request that the Examiner allow each of the presently pending claims and pass the present application to issuance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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